

# Public Document Pack

## Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr

### Bridgend County Borough Council



Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont, CF31 4WB / Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

*Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg.  
Rhowch wybod i ni os mai Cymraeg yw eich  
dewis iaith.*

*We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Please  
let us know if your language choice is Welsh.*



#### Cyfarwyddiaeth y Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive's Directorate

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line /: 01656 643148 /  
643147 / 643694

Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Democratic Services

Ein cyf / Our ref:

Eich cyf / Your ref:

**Dyddiad/Date:** Thursday, 13 April 2023

Dear Councillor,

### **CABINET COMMITTEE CORPORATE PARENTING**

A hybrid meeting of the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting will be held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend with access also remotely, on **Wednesday, 19 April 2023 at 09:30**.

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for Absence  
To receive apologies for absence from Members.
2. Declarations of Interest  
To receive declarations of personal and prejudicial interest (if any) from Members/Officers in accordance with the provisions of the Members' Code of Conduct adopted by Council from 1 September 2008.
3. Approval of Minutes 3 - 6  
To receive for approval the minutes of 12/01/23
4. Update on Corporate Parenting Development 7 - 24
5. My Support Team and Residential & Therapeutic Review 25 - 30
6. Implementation of the Bridgend Exploitation Prevention Panel 31 - 36
7. Urgent Items  
To consider any other item(s) of business in respect of which notice has been given in accordance with Part 4 (paragraph 4) of the Council Procedure Rules and which the person presiding at the meeting is of the opinion should be reason of special circumstances be transacted at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Note: This will be a Hybrid meeting and Members and Officers will be attending in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Angel Street Bridgend / Remotely via Microsoft Teams. The meeting will be recorded for subsequent transmission via the Council's internet site which will be available as soon as practicable after the meeting. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact [cabinet\\_committee@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:cabinet_committee@bridgend.gov.uk) or tel. 01656 643147 / 643148.

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Yours faithfully

**K Watson**

Chief Officer, Legal and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy

Councillors:

F D Bletsoe  
JPD Blundell  
HJ David  
N Farr

Councillors

J Gebbie  
W R Goode  
J E Pratt  
JC Spanswick

Councillors

T Thomas  
A Wathan  
AJ Williams  
HM Williams

# Agenda Item 3

CABINET COMMITTEE CORPORATE PARENTING - THURSDAY, 12 JANUARY 2023

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CABINET COMMITTEE CORPORATE PARENTING HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON THURSDAY, 12 JANUARY 2023 AT 09:30

## Present

Councillor J Gebbie – Chairperson

F D Bletsoe	JPD Blundell	HJ David	N Farr
W R Goode	J E Pratt	T Thomas	A Wathan
AJ Williams	HM Williams		

## Apologies for Absence

JC Spanswick

## Officers:

Steve Berry	Corporate Parenting and Participation Officer
Nimi Chandrasena	Democratic Services Officer – Support
Lindsay Harvey	Corporate Director Education and Family Support
Steven Howell	Group Manager Placements & Provider Services
Laura Kinsey	Head of Children's Social Care
Claire Marchant	Corporate Director Social Services and Wellbeing
Iain McMillan	Group Manager - Case Management & Transition
Stuart Osborne	Team Manager - Just Ask Plus
Michael Pitman	Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services

## 13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cabinet Member for Communities  
Group Manager - Case Management & Transition

## 14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

## 15. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting dated 12/10/2022 be approved as a true and accurate record.

## 16. UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BASIC INCOME PILOT SCHEME

A report was presented by the Corporate Director for Social Services and Wellbeing on the above topic.

The Deputy Leader queried the outcome of the individuals who benefit from the Pilot Scheme and those who did not.

A Member queried details of the tenure and provision of direct payment. He also queried on support provided to those individuals who were vulnerable on inexperienced in handling finance. The Member further queried, as the scheme ran over a period of 3 years, the provisions in place in the event the individual secured employment or training.

The Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Future Generations queried the support available to the young person after the pilot scheme had reached its end.

The Team Manager - Just Ask plus responded by stating that payment went direct to the individual. He stated that all young people were assigned to a personal advisor who would guide them on this. He stated that the young person would be in receipt of basic income when employed. He also stated that it was important to keep the young person engaged to ensure a steady income.

The Deputy Leader added to this by stating that the young person will be entitled to the support until they reach the age of 25.

The Cabinet Member for Resources queried how many out of the number currently in the scheme are currently in education.

The Team Manager - Just Ask plus responded by stating that exact figures were not available, however there was an expectation for surveys and personal advisors would assist with the figures.

The Corporate Director for Social Services and Wellbeing stated there were currently KPI's on care-leavers engaging with the Local Authority and agreed to put local measures in place here.

The Leader agreed that it would be helpful to have the wider update as it was about enhancing their opportunities, evaluating and monitoring regularly and he welcomed a six month or annual report on the project.

**RESOLVED:** That the Committee considered the contents of the report and noted informed of the progress relating to the implementation of the Basic Income Pilot Scheme.

17. **UPDATE ON THE CARE INSPECTORATE WALES INSPECTION OF BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL'S CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL HOMES IN 2022**

The Corporate Director for Social Services and Wellbeing introduced the report and invited the Head of Children's Social Care to present the findings of the Inspection.

She went through the outcomes of the inspections conducted on:

- Maple Tree House on 28 June 2022
- Sunny Bank on 04 August 2022
- Harwood House on 13 September 2022
- Bakers Way on 29 September 2022

The Head of Children's Social Care stated that the staff were committed to providing first class care prior to the findings shared with the Inspectorate. She mentioned the difficulties in recruitment and retention of staff and stated that the operation of Maple Tree House will not resume until all the recommendations from the Inspection had been implemented.

A Member queried the plans for staffing in all the various settings and she mentioned concerns that the closure was due to staffing and recurrence of issues related to staffing. She also voiced concerns about the possible ongoing of the wellbeing of the children in the residential settings.

The Head of Children's Social Care responded that there was ongoing recruitment into the settings with an emphasis on making the posts attractive to prospective recruits. She stated that means of building a pool of casual staff as opposed to utilising the services of agency staff was also being looked at.

She invited the Group Manager – Placements and Provider Services to elaborate.

He stated there were visible positive signs in recruitment of staff with managers working closely with the communications team to encourage such recruitment.

The Deputy Leader stated they were aware of the difficulties faced by the children who had since been moved to a similar setting run by social workers. She assured the committee that she had received updates that they were doing well and the move was a positive one. She stated that the focus on recruitment was based on the quality of support, rather than the number of employees.

The Head of Children's Social Care supported the above statements and reiterated that the Maple Tree residential home would only re-open if the requirements set out by the inspectorate are fully satisfied. She stated that a New Build facility in Brynmenyn is to be opened as an emergency and assessment provision.

The Corporate Director for Social Services and Wellbeing added that they were looking at a multi-agency response and working towards achieving a Therapeutic Model.

The Leader expressed his gratitude to staff and sought reassurance that requirements set out for improvement have been implemented.

The Head of Children's Social Care stated that the management of the Sunnybank Residential unit had responded to the recommendations set out by the Inspectorate and assured that there had not been any inspections since.

**RESOLVED:** That the Cabinet Committee noted the report.

18. **UPDATE ON CORPORATE PARENTING DEVELOPMENT**

The Corporate Parenting Participation Officer stated that purpose of the report was to provide the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting with an update on the development of Corporate Parenting in Bridgend.

He introduced and went through the report. He stated they were inviting professions to make a "Promise" on what they had the ability to change and bring into the Strategic Plan. He stated that the details regarding this, could be brought to the next meeting.

He mentioned two groups that would make up the Youth Forum and sought approval for draft terms of reference.

The Leader queried the engagement from partners.

The Deputy Leader responded stating that the partners did not have an understanding before but were fully engaged now. This was reinforced by the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing and Future Generations, by stating that it was important for all Councillors to involve themselves as much as their individual schedules permitted and queried from the Corporate Parenting Participation Officer about plans to promote engagement so that Council colleagues could see the wonderful work done by the team and the foster parents for the children cared for by the borough.

**CABINET COMMITTEE CORPORATE PARENTING - THURSDAY, 12 JANUARY 2023**

This was agreed by the Corporate Parenting Participation Officer who stated that the response from partners was a positive one. He also stated that the aims and objectives of the sub-groups were focused on providing a voice of a child by way of training, promotions and championing their roles and responsibilities. He mentioned having written to professionals and Councillors with a view to promoting this.

**RESOLVED:**

(1) That the Committee supported the progress of the Corporate Parenting Development.

(2) That the Committee approved the Bridgend Corporate Parenting Board Terms of Reference.

19. **URGENT ITEMS**

None

The meeting closed at 10:30

## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE CORPORATE PARENTING

19 APRIL 2023

#### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

##### UPDATE ON CORPORATE PARENTING DEVELOPMENT

#### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting with an update on the development of Corporate Parenting in Bridgend.

#### 2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives / other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:

- **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
- **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
- **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

#### 3. Background

- 3.1 The first Cabinet Committee Corporate Parenting meeting of the municipal year received a report presented by the Corporate Parenting and Participation Officer setting out proposals for the future development of Corporate Parenting in Bridgend.

- 3.2 The proposals included:

- Establishing a shared vision for Corporate Parenting Responsibilities.
- Establishing a governance structure that supports the strategic and operational approach to Corporate Parenting.
- Establishing a Corporate Parenting Performance Framework.
- Establishing care experienced forums to provide our children and young people with a collective voice.

This report will provide an update on the progress of the above proposals.

## 4. Current situation/proposal

### 4.1 Establishing a shared vision for Corporate Parenting Responsibilities

4.1.1 It was decided at the Corporate Parenting Board meeting in January 2023 that the Bridgend Corporate Parenting Strategy would be a 'young person friendly document' rather than a formal strategy document. Therefore, the Board decided to list what they plan to do for care experienced children, young people and care leavers in Bridgend rather than produce a specific 'vision statement' as first proposed.

4.1.2 Within the Strategy document cited in **Appendix 1**, the Board have provided 'Our Plan for You', as an offer to their children, young people and other professionals with a series of headings that explain their intentions for support and future work programme activities that are attributed to subgroups of the Board to carry out.

4.1.3 The Board has 5 subgroups: 4 'subject based' subgroups and a Data subgroup:

- Health, Fitness & Wellbeing subgroup
- Rights & Care Standards subgroup
- Education, Training & Employment subgroup
- Housing, Income & Living Independently subgroup
- Data subgroup

The four subject based subgroups each have a specific remit that support the priorities. All subgroups report into the Board following an agreed schedule.

The Data subgroup will produce a data dashboard that will report on qualitative and quantitative data for each of the priorities.

4.1.4 'What we will do for you...' heading within the strategy are the listed activities that the Corporate Parenting Board are responsible for:

- *'We will listen to your views, wishes & feelings and do what we can to make things better from what you say and work with you to make decisions that are about you.'*
- *'We will support you to get the most out of as many opportunities and experiences as we can and help you to reach your full potential.'*
- *'We will recognise and praise you for your achievements, and we will support you to celebrate events that are important to you.'*
- *'We will make sure that you are given all the information you need to know about your rights and that you are able to access this information from a range of places'*

4.1.5 'How we will care for you ...' heading within the strategy are the listed activities that the Health, Fitness & Well-Being subgroup are responsible for:

- *'We will keep you safe, give you somewhere comfortable to live where you are cared for properly and make sure you have all that you need'*
- *'We will make sure that all of those that work with you and support you are well trained and treat you with dignity and respect'*



- 4.1.6 'How we will consider your health...' heading within the strategy are the listed activities that the Rights & Care Standards subgroup are responsible for:
- *'We will support and encourage you to access all the health, fitness and wellbeing services, activities, and opportunities that you need or choose to explore*
  - *We will let you and the people that care for you to know about all the information you need to have a healthy life*
  - *With your consent, we will support you to manage your own thoughts and feelings and give you the option to have extra help relating your mental health and wellbeing if this is what you want'*
- 4.1.7 'What we will do for you in education, training and employment...' heading within the strategy are the listed activities that the Education, Training & Employments subgroup are responsible for:
- *'We will support you to engage and succeed in education, training, apprenticeships, and employment of your choice.*
  - *We will provide you with alternative education opportunities when you need them and support your achievement and engagement for you to reach your full potential.*
  - *We will make you aware of the different opportunities and choices in education, training and employment at a time that is relevant to you, and we will support you to access these'.*
- 4.1.8 'What we will do for you to help you live independently...' heading within the strategy are the listed activities that the Housing, Income & Living Independently subgroup are responsible for:
- *'We will work with you to understand your housing needs and make plans so that we can support you*
  - *We will help you with the skills and information you need and develop a clear pathway of support for you to live independently*
  - *we will strengthen the support given by all of your Corporate Parents; improve the contact we have with you, and we will keep in touch to see how you are doing after you are 18 years of age'.*
- 4.1.9 Corporate Parenting Board members, subgroup members, their organisation colleagues and some elected members attended a 'Promise Event' in March 2023 where the above activities were strengthened through individual designations providing specific promises in what they intend to do in their specific roles for their children and young people. The individual promises are at the end of the strategy within **Appendix 1**.
- 4.2 Establishing a governance structure that supports the strategic and operational approach to Corporate Parenting
- 4.2.1 The Governance structure for the Corporate Parenting Board is now fully established and functional with broad representation from Council departments and multiagency partner representation at both Board and subgroup level.

4.2.2 The Bridgend Corporate Parenting Board Strategy provides the Board and its subgroups with agreed overarching activities and support principles that will form the objectives for each respective topic based work programme.

4.2.3 The work programme for the Board and the subgroups will be coproduced between the representatives in meetings and the young people in the youth forum and this work will commence in May 2023 after the Strategy Launch.

#### 4.3 Establishing a Corporate Parenting Performance Framework

4.3.1 During the first Corporate Parenting Board meeting, it was agreed that the capacity of each agency to produce data could be limited and therefore a scoping exercise would need to be undertaken by each agency to identify what current data pertinent to care experienced children, young people and care leavers is collected and analysed.

4.3.2 The Corporate Parenting Board have since recognised that Board members are not fully aware of each other's responsibilities to our children and young people and what services, support and care they currently offer.

4.3.3 Therefore it has been agreed that each organisation will provide a presentation from May 2023 onward explaining what their role is in the lives of our children and young people.

4.3.4 As part of their presentations to Board meetings, member organisations will also be expected to share what they are currently able to offer in terms of data and their ability to share this as part of a 'Corporate Parenting report card' in the future.

#### 4.4 Establish care experienced forums to provide our children and young people with a collective voice

4.4.1 Tros Gynnal Plant (TGP Cymru), continue to provide our Specialist Participation Service to facilitate our youth forums. TGP Cymru will be working alongside the Corporate Parenting & Participation Officer in the Easter holidays to consult the youth forums on a range of activities including how they can be involved in the Corporate Parenting Strategy Launch.

### 5. **Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules**

5.1 There is no impact on the policy framework or procedure rules arising from this report.

### 6. **Equality Act 2010 implications**

6.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening has identified that there would be no negative impact on those with one or more of the protected characteristics, on socio-economic disadvantage or the use of the Welsh Language. It is therefore not necessary to carry out a full EIA on this policy or proposal.

## **7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications**

- 7.1 Long term – the establishment of the Corporate Parenting Board will address how agencies can address their responsibilities for Corporate Parenting in a strategic manner to make robust plans for the future.
- 7.2 Prevention – the proposals that have been made mean that the responsibilities we all have for Corporate Parenting are identified and established into what we need to report on. Measuring and reporting on these responsibilities through the Corporate Parenting Board will enable us to take early action on any issues identified.
- 7.3 Integration – the Corporate Parenting Board has a multiagency membership, along with an extended multiagency membership through its 5 subgroups. This membership is intended to provide sufficient representation to cover who has specific responsibilities for our children and young people in particular circumstances. The purpose of the next Board meeting and the subgroup meetings being held within this quarter, will identify where professionals and agencies need to work together in the future to forge a coherent approach to the care of our children and young people.
- 7.4 Collaboration – the success and effectiveness of our Corporate Parenting in Bridgend is dependent on how well agencies work together to achieve shared goals and aspirations for our children and young people. These goals and aspirations will be agreed within a ‘shared vision’ at the next Corporate Parenting Board on 19th April 2023. The shared vision will be the cornerstone for carrying out the steps necessary to launch the Bridgend Corporate Parenting Strategy on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023.
- 7.5 Involvement – due consideration has been given to how different ‘providers of care’ are involved in the proposals around Corporate Parenting. Specific attention and proposals are given to enabling the voice and lived experience of our children and young people.

## **8. Financial implications**

- 8.1 The Corporate Parenting Strategy design, translation and launch will be paid for through Social Services and Wellbeing - Children Social Care budget.

## **9. Recommendations**

- 9.1 It is recommended that the Committee consider the contents of this report and support the progress of the Corporate Parenting development.

Claire Marchant

**CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING**

April 2023

**Contact officer:** Steve Berry  
Corporate Parenting and Participation Officer

**Telephone:** (01656) 642070

**Email:** [steve.berry@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:steve.berry@bridgend.gov.uk)

**Postal address:** Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

**Background documents:** None

# Bridgend Corporate Parenting Strategy

## Our Plan for you...

### **What is Corporate Parenting**

When a child or young person enters the care of the Council, the role of being a parent is taken on by the local authority and some of the responsibilities are also shared with other organisations such as health or learning - *this is known as Corporate Parenting.*

*A child or young person (aged 0 - 16years old) who is or has been in the care of a local authority (eg foster care or children's home) is known as 'care experienced'. A young person aged 16 - 25 who is or has been care experienced is known as a care leaver.*

### **Who we are...**

In Bridgend County, we are the leaders and managers from different departments and organisations who are the Corporate Parents that meet regularly, in a meeting called the Corporate Parenting Board. We discuss how we can work together to provide care experienced children, young people and care leavers (*our children and young people*) all the things they need to live happy and healthy lives.

We, the Corporate Parenting Board, have agreed to focus our work on a list of most important topics, known as Priorities, that were decided by our children and young people:

### **Our priorities...**

- **1:** Having a voice
- **2:** Good health and wellbeing
- **3:** A comfortable safe stable home whilst in care and after
- **4:** Educational achievement, training, and employment
- **5:** Ready for living independently
- **6:** Celebrating our children and young people's important achievements and events

### **How will we do this...**

We have a group of champions that will look at the priorities in detail and they will agree on a plan of action to make sure that the work gets done properly.

## **How will we know if we're getting it right...**

We will measure the work we do on each priority with targets and these will include involving our children and young people's ideas and opinions. A report will be written every 12 months to show the progress we have made with our targets and what our children and young people say about what needs to be improved.

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## **Our Plan for you**

The plan of action will involve what we, as Corporate Parents, will do for our children and young people and it has been written for our children to read and hold us to account:

### **What we will do for you...**

- We will listen to your views, wishes & feelings and do what we can to make things better from what you say and work with you to make decisions that are about you.
- We will support you to get the most out of as many opportunities and experiences as we can and help you to reach your full potential.
- We will recognise and praise you for your achievements, and we will support you to celebrate events that are important to you.
- We will make sure that you are given all the information you need to know about your rights and that you are able to access this information from a range of places

### **How we will care for you...**

- We will keep you safe, give you somewhere comfortable to live where you are cared for properly and make sure you have all that you need
- We will make sure that all of those that work with you and support you are well trained and treat you with dignity and respect

### **How we will consider your health...**

- We will support and encourage you to access all the health, fitness and wellbeing services, activities, and opportunities that you need or choose to explore
- We will let you and the people that care for you to know about all the information you need to have a healthy life

- With your consent, we will support you to manage your own thoughts and feelings and give you the option to have extra help relating your mental health and wellbeing if this is what you want

### **What we will do for you in education, training and employment...**

- We will support you to engage and succeed in education, training, apprenticeships, and employment of your choice.
- We will provide you with alternative education opportunities when you need them and support your achievement and engagement for you to reach your full potential.
- We will make you aware of the different opportunities and choices in education, training and employment at a time that is relevant to you and we will support you to access these.

### **What we will do for you to help you live independently...**

- We will work with you to understand your housing needs and make plans so that we can support you
- We will help you with the skills and information you need and develop a clear pathway of support for you to live independently
- we will strengthen the support given by all of your Corporate Parents; improve the contact we have with you and we will keep in touch to see how you are doing after you are 18 years of age.

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### **What if you are not happy with the care and support that we offer...**

You have a right to speak up and speak out about anything you want stopped or changed. You can do this by speaking to any of the below people:

- Your carer/s, teacher, youth worker, nurse / doctor, key worker, social worker, personal advisor

If you feel you want to speak to someone who is independent from the above people and will only work to your views wishes and feelings, you can ask to have an independent advocate from TGP Cymru.

You can ask any of the above people to arrange for you to have an independent advocate or you can contact TGP Cymru directly yourself:

Freephone number: **0800 4703930**

Website: **[www.tgpcymru.org.uk](http://www.tgpcymru.org.uk)**

Telephone: **01443 805940**

## **Our Promise to you...**

We, the Corporate Parenting Board, arranged a Promise Event in March for Corporate Parents to make their promise to their children & young people.

The following pages are the Promises made by Corporate Parents from different organisations across Bridgend County Borough:

### **Richard Hughes, Chief Executive, Awen Trust**

*I will promote your voices, support how you are cared for and ensure you have equal opportunity to enjoy a creative, active life.*

### **Andrew Thomas, Prevention & Wellbeing Group Manager, Social Services & Wellbeing, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I will support our care experienced children and young people to be more life experienced in the things that matter to them...connecting them across our communities and supporting them to own their wellbeing.

### **Victoria Powell, Senior Nurse for School Nursing, Cwm Taff Morgannwg University Health Board**

I will ensure that the school nursing team supports your health and wellbeing by delivering health promotion to empower you to make the best choices for you as you grow.

### **Rachel Keepings, Democratic Services Manager, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I will promote the engagement of care experienced children and care leavers in the democratic process to ensure their voices are heard and listened to, to inform the larger decisions that affect them.

### **Ashleigh Ogston, Police Community Support Officer, Neighbourhood Policing, SW Police**

I will promise to engage with young people and listen to their concerns, do my best to help anyone who needs it.

### **Zoe Morgan, Participation Worker, TGP Cymru**

I will facilitate a forum for care experienced children, young people and care leavers in Bridgend and give you a space to meet with other and ensure you can share your views wishes and feelings and share your ideas about how to make things better. I will also ensure I tell you what has been done with your information and what has been changed.



**Megan Davies, Advocacy Service Manager, TGP Cymru**

I will make sure care experienced children and young people in Bridgend, along with care leavers, are able to access good quality and responsive advocacy services at a time and place that suits them.

**Debra Evans, Residential Childrens Services Manager, Social Services & Wellbeing, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I will ensure that I promote positive outcomes in your life and make everyone aware of your wishes and wants. I will listen to your views and implement plans to support you to reach your targets. I will make sure that all staff are aware of our outcomes and they support you to reach your full potential.

**Cllr. Hywel Williams, Cabinet Member for Resources, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I will use my role to raise awareness of care experienced children. Happy to provide farm / lambing experience day to any care experienced child.

**Gemma Hayne, Employability Bridgend Team Leader, Communities Directorate, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I will promote your voice within the Employability Bridgend Team to support you, along with other teams, to develop an action plan to increase your chances of gaining employment, vocational qualifications, and work experience to help you set up a sustainable future.

**Cllr. Neelo Farr, Cabinet for Regeneration, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I will ensure we have policy to address your needs to ensure that we deliver on what we said; ensure we provide resources to meet your identified need; ensure your voice is heard when agreeing policies.

**Mark Shephard, Chief Executive, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I will provide effective leadership of the council to ensure that throughout the organisation our collective role as Corporate Parents is prioritised and that everyone is supported to ensure the best possible outcomes for you

**Claire O Keefe, Head of Safeguarding, Patient Safety, Cwm Taff Morgannwg University Health Board**

I will support and champion the right to have equitable access to health services and where there are identified gaps, endeavour to provide strong leadership to work with health services, to listen and act upon your views and wishes.

**Cllr. Jane Gebbie, Deputy Leader of Council, Cabinet Member for Social Services & Early Help, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I will continue to bring together all organisations to work on your behalf to ensure that you have the best opportunities and feel valued with whoever you are living with.

**Claire Marchant, Corporate Director of Social Services & Wellbeing, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I will promise that we will do 'nothing about you without you.' We will hear what is important to you and act on it in our strategies and plans and in our practice. I will support the training and development of our workforce so they have the skills and time to spend with you so we can support you well.

**David Wright, Group Manager – Vulnerable Group Support, Education and Family Support, Bridgend County Borough Council**

Ensure that children and young people are able to access information to support that can help them achieve their desired outcomes. I do promise that I will hold schools to account to provide education in a safe environment that will help children flourish.

**Lindsay Harvey, Corporate Director, Education and Family Support, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I will work tirelessly to ensure you are given the best possible learning opportunities and you benefit from high quality, personalised support to provide you with appropriate skills for the future.

**Gail Biggs, Engagement Team, Education and Family Support Directorate, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I will always advocate and support children and young people to achieve their potential and access all of the opportunities available for this while making progress and improving outcomes.

**Lily Gallagher, Disability Sport Development Officer, Prevention and Wellbeing, Social Services & Wellbeing, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I will co design provision with care experienced children. Ensuring their voices are heard, and they have an impact on the services I provide that affect them

**Steve Berry, Corporate Parenting and Participation Officer, Social Services & Wellbeing, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I promise that I will promote your voice getting heard and I will champion your views to make positive changes in how you are cared for. I also promise that I will remind everyone of their responsibility to give you the best care that you deserve.

**Huw David, Leader, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I will try and think about care experienced children and young people in every big decision that we make as a council.

**Lois Sutton, Childrens Rights and Participation, Youth Development Team, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I will champion youth voice on behalf of all young people and provide support and needs lead services accessible for the young people of Bridgend making sure that there are safe spaces for young people to socialise and have a say.

**Matthew Bradford, Station Manager, Operations, SW Fire and Rescue Service**

I will pledge to offer a supportive and nurturing environment where you can learn how to keep yourselves safe and have opportunity to grow and develop in a safe space.

**Claire Davies, Childrens Rights and Participation, Youth Development Team, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I will promise to make you aware of your rights and promote children rights. I will promise to support you to access opportunities to have your voice heard and views acted upon.

**Nic Morgan, Social Worker, Social Service and Wellbeing Directorate, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I will ensure to listen. Ensure you have the access to the best possible opportunities, the same as any other child. And I promise to celebrate all of your achievements – whether they are big or small.

**Joe Baldwin, Vice Principle, Senior Leadership Team, Bridgend College**

I will ensure that you are aware of the opportunities to access support to help you progress and succeed at college. This includes any financial, wellbeing and learning support that you need to enable you to be all that you can be.

**Matthew Rees, Assistant Principle, Senior Leadership Team, Bridgend College**

I will make sure our staff have the correct information in order to give consistent advice and support so that our young people receive the best opportunities to succeed and be all that they can be.

**Andrew Purser, Police Officer, Neighbourhood Policing, SW Police**

I will engage and listen to young people, I will try and understand the needs of the person and help them as I can in my role as a Police Officer.

**Jade Jones, Cheryl Thomas, Darcy Grave, Commissioning Team, Social Services & Wellbeing, Bridgend County Borough Council**

We will listen to, involve and engage children and young people to help design and procure high quality services, getting it right first time, on time, every time.

**Caroline McCarthy, Student Services Manager, Bridgend College**

I will support my team to ensure that you are listened to and advocated for. I will ensure that all options are explored and that everything is done to ensure that you are aware of the financial and wellbeing support available.

**Ian Suggitt, Liaison Foster Carer**

I will commit to providing / facilitating long term wellbeing and future of all the children looked after not only in Bridgend but Foster Wales by promoting, supporting, tutoring and being there when needed to fulfil my promise.

**Rebecca Walsh liaison Foster Carer**

I will treat every child / young person with respect, show them their worth and make them feel loved and wanted within our family. I will be patient and understanding to their background, experiences of life, beliefs and I will do my utmost to help them through the challenges life brings and get them to be the best version of themselves. I will believe in them and be their biggest cheerleader for as long as they need me.

**Rose White & Graham Clifford, Foster Carers**

I will support and encourage any child in our care to achieve the best / appropriate outcomes for them. We are always there for them no matter what!

**Kerry Galton, Liaison Foster Carer**

I will listen and champion views to make positive changes and care for you. I will also help others with their responsibilities to get what you deserve.

**Gemma Doherty, Social Worker, Social Services & Wellbeing, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I work in a child centred approach and ensure I provide equal opportunities for children's wishes and feelings to be heard and their voices are central to all assessments to be completed. I will continue to work in co-production with children, families and key agencies to promote children's welfare and positive outcome for children.

**Dominique Lima, Personal Advisor, 16+ Team, Social Services & Wellbeing, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I will make sure you have the right people to support you, celebrate with your achievements, develop your own interests / hobbies, support you through education / work / training for your future, above all reach and support you to stay safe and be healthy.

**Alex Fitzpatrick, Principal Officer Placements & Provider Services, Social Services & Wellbeing, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I will do my best to give you more choice about placements, support stability in placement and enable you to have permanence at the earliest opportunity.

**Dale Llewelyn, Social Worker, Care Experienced Team, Social Services & Wellbeing, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I will commit and listen to each young person I meet and support. To ensure that they feel valued and respected.

**Sarah Tripp, Compliments & Complaints Resolution Manager, Social Services & Wellbeing, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I will listen actively to the voices of our care experienced children, young people and care leavers, giving a safe space and opportunity to express their concerns freely without judgement. I want to give them the confidence that their complaints will be taken seriously and will be fully considered.

**Alex Williams, Edge of Care Team Manager, Education & Family Support, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I will support my team to listen to you. To provide support so they have time to spend with you and understand what you want from our services. I will involve you in developing our service to make sure the support we offer is what you want and need.

**Kayleigh Roper, Edge of care social worker, Education & Family Support, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I will support your Mum and Dad when you can't live with them. I will help your parents to be able to contribute to a positive experience when you're spending time with them.

**Adam Stevens, Intervention Specialist, Education & Family Support, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I will help you and your family achieve better mental health

**Jessica Haskins, Police Community Support Officer, Neighbourhood Policing, SW Police**

I will promise to always be approachable and understanding at all times to help you, guide you in any situation you face. I will promise to be inclusive and open minded to you and give you the best support possible.

**Rhiannon Shearon, Senior Residential Care Worker, Social Services & Wellbeing, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I will be a positive role model in your life. I will listen and encourage you. I will support you in making positive choices and your voice to be heard.

**Pat Whitehouse, Social worker, Care Experienced Team, Social Services & Wellbeing, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I will continue to listen and promote your voice and where possible to champion your views to make positive change to your care and not to make promises that I can't keep and to continue to recognise your achievements.

**Stuart Osbourne, 16 +Team Manager, Social Services & Wellbeing, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I will make sure that my team captures your voice in all the work they do. I also promise that my team will try their hardest to provide you with the best support, advice and guidance and help you achieve the best possible outcomes.

**Nicola Fedyszyn, Interim Communications and Marketing Manager, Chief executives, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I will commit to raise the profile and awareness of the key role the Corporate Parenting Board plays in the lives of children and young people.

**Kevin Reeves, Youth Justice Service, Education & Family Support, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I will ensure that myself and my team view your life through a trauma informed lens so that we can understand how we can support you in living a life free of crime whilst helping you to fulfil your potential.

**Samantha Gunnarsson, Wellbeing and Safeguarding Manager, Bridgend College**

I will ensure staff have the appropriate awareness of the needs of care experienced young people to afford those young people the time and space to share how they are feeling and what support they need. To ensure staff communicate with wider support teams to advocate for those young people.

**CLlr Jon-Paul Blundell, Cabinet Member, Education, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I will always promote and be a champion to all our young people allowing them to achieve their goals.

**Nikki Flower, Learning & Organisational Development Manager, Chief Executive's Directorate, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I promise that I will look for work experience opportunities throughout the council to help you gain an insight into your potential career pathway. I also promise to get you apprenticeship ready by delivering workshops to guide you through the job application and interview process.

**Martin Morgans, Head of Partnership Services, Chief Executive's Directorate, Bridgend County Borough Council**

I promise we will work with our partners to develop the right services to meet your needs within the right time exploring the most appropriate housing option that is suitable for you. I promise to try and prevent you from becoming homeless by working with others to prevent you from having to access homeless services.

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## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE CORPORATE PARENTING

19 APRIL 2023

#### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

##### MY SUPPORT TEAM AND RESIDENTIAL & THERAPEUTIC REVIEW

### 1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Corporate Parenting Committee with an update on:

- Grant funding secured from Welsh Government, under the National Improving Outcomes for Children, Eliminating Private Profit Programme to develop and implement a My Support Team (MyST) service;
- The root and branch review of residential and therapeutic services; and
- The new children's residential service that is being developed.

### 2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives/other corporate priorities

2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objectives under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:

- **Supporting a successful sustainable economy** – taking steps to make the county borough a great place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions for all people in the county borough.
- **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.
- **Smarter use of resources** – ensure that all resources (financial, physical, ecological, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the creation of resources throughout the community that can help to deliver the Council's well-being objectives.

### 3. Background

3.1 As part of Welsh Government's (WG) Programme for Government 2022-2027, there are a number of commitments that, taken together, describe a new vision to transform children's services. The delivery of these commitments will effect change across the whole care system here in Wales.

3.2 A key component of this new vision for children's services is the Programme for Government commitment to remove private profit from the care of care experienced children. The aim is to ensure that public money invested in accommodation for care experienced children does not lead to profit, but instead any surpluses are reinvested into children's services to deliver better outcomes, service improvement

and further professional development. This means that over time the care of care experienced children in Wales will be provided by public sector, charitable or not for profit organisations.

- 3.3 To support the transition to a not-for-profit system, WG encouraged local authorities to bid for funding to upscale existing provision and consider the models of care required.
- 3.4 Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) has been remodelling its residential provision for the last 4 years in accordance with the North Yorkshire “No Wrong Doors” model to support more children to have their needs assessed and met in the county borough.
- 3.5 In April 2020, supported by the Behaviour Clinic, a new therapeutic “Trauma Informed Behaviour Analytic” model was implemented which sought to ensure that children received a structured approach to their care, were supported to build relationships with staff, and were able to receive an assessment of the therapy they needed to support positive outcomes and enable them to take positive steps into longer term accommodation to meet their needs.

#### **4. Current situation/proposal**

- 4.1 In accordance with the eliminating profit priorities, and to strengthen the therapeutic model and capacity to implement, Bridgend County Borough Council submitted and secured funding to strengthen residential staffing structures and develop and implement a My Support Team (MyST) in fostering and residential services.
- 4.2 The MyST model is well-established within other regions of Wales and has been successfully evaluated. The vision is to create a highly skilled and consistent team around the child, working to a multi-systemic model of practice with significant wrap around support to both staff/carers and children.
- 4.3 The service will include a number of highly skilled staff to enhance the service and should support recruitment and retention, address placement stability and most importantly ensure children achieve better outcomes.
- 4.4 As part of the implementation of MyST, the Institute of Public Care are supporting Bridgend County Borough Council to help inform our vision and develop the therapeutic model to underpin both residential (Children’s Hub) and fostering services, making best use of the capacity available – and considering how it will complement the approach of related and parallel services.
- 4.5 Service leads from the Council and partners in education and health will be consulted with as part of the review and help shape a shared and joint initiative. The review will inform fundamental elements within the commissioning of the MyST service.
- 4.6 Bridgend County Borough Council successfully secured capital investment through the Welsh Government’s Housing with Care Fund for a new purpose-built children’s residential home, Golygfa’r Dolydd (Meadows View), which will provide care and support for up to seven children and young people within the age range of 8 – 17

years. The provision consists of four placements within the assessment facility and three within the emergency facility.

- 4.7 The emergency facility will offer short-term specialist support for children / young people who are experiencing difficult circumstances and who are in immediate need of care and support, for a period of up to 28 days. The assessment service can provide children / young people with intensive placements for up to a period of 12 months. The service will focus on assessments and therapeutic interventions to support their recovery from trauma and assess their ongoing needs for accommodation, care and support.
- 4.8 The building work is underway and due to be completed at the end of April and the property will be furnished by the middle to end of June 2023. Care Inspectorate Wales have visited the property and initial conversations have been held with them regarding registration.
- 4.9 Following a review of residential staffing undertaken in October 2022, it was identified that several proposed changes were required to strengthen the staffing structure at Golygfa'r Dolydd and ensure that the service will be able to operate in line with the Statement of Purpose and meet the needs of children placed there. This included the need to operate two separate rotas, one for the assessment beds and one for the emergency beds, and the need for additional management oversight. These enhancements reflect learning from challenges experienced in Maple Tree House in consistently providing high standards of care. The new staffing structure will significantly reduce the use of casual and agency staff at Golygfa'r Dolydd, and at other Bridgend County Borough Council homes for children, thereby creating greater consistency and routines for the young people and will support relationship development and recovery from trauma. It will also enable the staff team to access ongoing training and development sessions, high quality timely supervision and allow peripatetic residential workers to work within other Bridgend County Borough Council homes/provide additional outreach support if/when an emergency bed is vacant.

## **5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules**

- 5.1 There is no effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules as a result of this report.

## **6. Equality Act 2010 implications**

- 6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty, and the impact on the use of the Welsh language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales, the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. This is an information report; therefore, it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact assessment in the production of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

## 7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications

7.1 A summary of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 assessment is listed below:

- Long-term** Children are supported by their carers to reach their full potential, and carers/staff have access to a highly skilled staff team for advice, support, and direction.
- Prevention** The service will assist with a shared understanding of the child's needs and their carers difficulties, to determine how best to intervene and respond to achieve positive outcomes and avoid the needs of young people escalating further.
- Integration** The service is a multi-agency partnership where integration is key to good service delivery arrangements.
- Collaboration** Collaboration is a key approach by placing young people at the centre of their support. Working with the network around the child working towards positive wellbeing outcomes.
- Involvement** Participation and engagement arrangements will be strengthened as part of this working arrangement.

## 8. Financial implications

### MyST – Welsh Government Grant Funding

8.1 Confirmation of funding has been received from Welsh Government, which is set out below:

- 2022/23 £129,304
- 2023/24 £1,228,268 (indicative)
- 2024/25 £1,538,75 (indicative)

8.2 Funding is available for 3 years (Financial years 2022/23–2024/25), and it is unknown at this stage if funding will continue beyond this initial term.

8.3 There is evidence from other local authorities who have implemented similar services that reductions in independent residential placements over a medium-term period could be made, which could be used to offset costs of the service beyond 2024/25 if Welsh Government funding does not continue beyond then.

8.4 Additionally, if Welsh Government funding is reduced or ceased post-2025, it will be ensured that there are necessary clauses within commissioned contracts to end any arrangements entered into, or to allow amendments to reduce provision/funding, leaving minimal financial risk to the local authority.

### Golygfa'r Dolydd – financial implications

8.5 The current staffing budget for Golygfa'r Dolydd is £528,792. The cost of the proposed staffing structure is £1,261,817 – an increase of £733,025.

- 8.6 Childrens Residential Care received additional funding from the 2023/24 Budget Pressures totalling £686,530, £606,262 of which is proposed to be utilised to support this restructure on a permanent basis. £112,000 of secured MyST grant funding is also being allocated towards the increased staffing costs of this restructure, and the grant funded posts will be appointed to on a two-year fixed term basis. The balance of the shortfall for this restructure, £14,763, is proposed to be vired from the Casual staffing budget within Childrens Residential Services, as less reliance should be placed on this budget going forward in implementing the new structure.
- 8.7 The grant funded posts need to be recruited to on a two-year fixed term basis in line with the proposed restructure and there is a risk of redundancy at the end of this period. During the two years the service will continue to explore alternative options to fund these posts on a permanent basis or alternative funding or alternative grants funding to continue temporary arrangements as required. The risk highlighted above will be mitigated through the on-going exploration of continued funding and through vacancy management.

## **9. Recommendation**

- 9.1 It is recommended that Cabinet Committee – Corporate Parenting notes the contents of this report.

**Claire Marchant**  
**Corporate Director – Social Services and Wellbeing Directorate**  
**April 2023**

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**Background documents:** None

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## BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

### REPORT TO CABINET COMMITTEE CORPORATE PARENTING

19 APRIL 2023

#### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BRIDGEND EXPLOITATION PREVENTION PANEL

##### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the progress to date to develop and implement a multi-agency operational Exploitation Prevention Panel in Bridgend.
- 1.2 This report will set out what exploitation is, and request support for the implementation of the Panel.

##### 2. Connection to corporate well-being objectives/other corporate priorities

- 2.1 This report assists in the achievement of the following corporate well-being objective under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**:
  - **Helping people and communities to be more healthy and resilient** - taking steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services. Supporting individuals and communities to build resilience, and enable them to develop solutions to have active, healthy and independent lives.

##### 3. Background

- 3.1 Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) aims to highlight the issues surrounding child exploitation and encourage everyone to think, spot, and speak out against exploitative abuse, whilst adopting a zero-tolerance attitude towards adults developing inappropriate relationships with children, or children exploiting and abusing their peers.
- 3.2 BCBC wants to raise awareness of Child Exploitation in all its forms and are currently developing a strategy to help fight against child sexual and child criminal exploitation.
- 3.3 The Council intends to support the victims and their families who are subjected to exploitation whilst supporting those professionals and practitioners to work directly with young people and their families. It aims to do this through assessing children and their families through the lens of exploitation having developed screening tools that support identification and exploration of exploitation.
- 3.4 Therefore, within Bridgend it is proposed that a multi-agency Exploitation Prevention Panel is established to provide support, oversight and scrutiny of the

work required to ensure the needs of children and families at risk of exploitation are met and appropriate services are recommended.

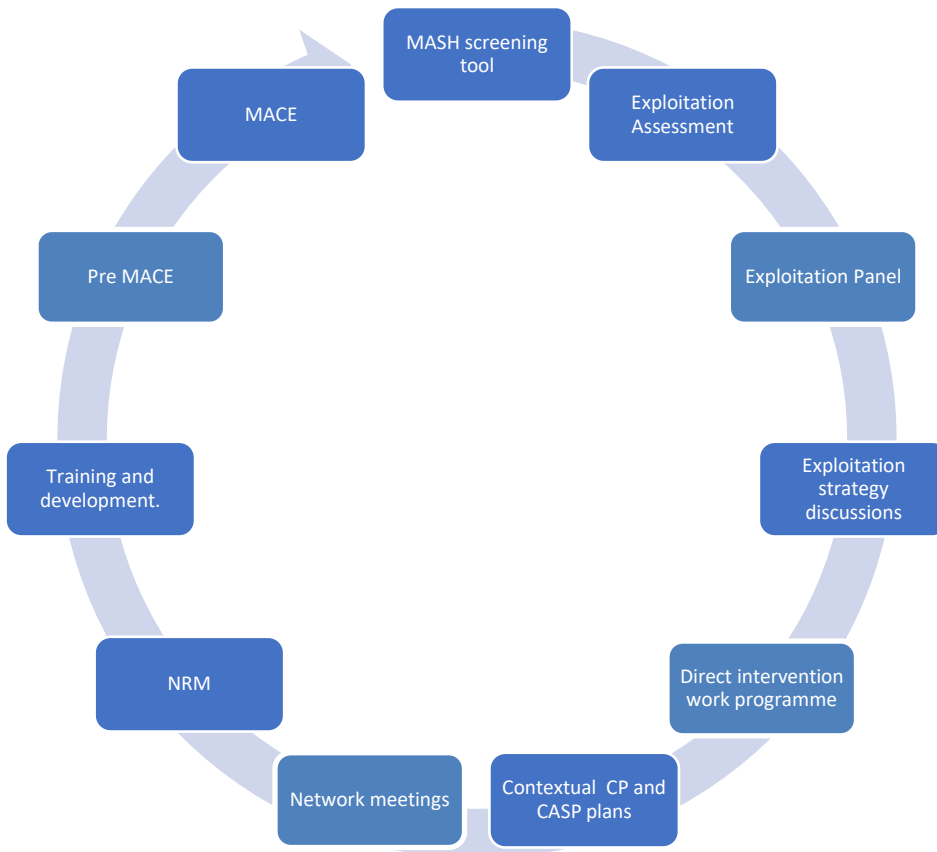
- 3.5 At the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) Improvement check of Bridgend Children's Social Care in November 2022 CIW identified; "Whilst work in relation to child exploitation has commenced on both a local and regional level, the local authority is at an early stage of change management in respect of implementing and embedding consistent practice regarding identifying and responding to child exploitation. The local authority must progress this work as a matter of urgency."

#### **4. Current situation/proposal**

- 4.1 A Regional Exploitation Strategy which has been developed and agreed sets out how partner agencies will recognise and understand exploitation, safeguard and empower victims, and disrupt perpetrators.
- 4.2 Cwm Taf Morgannwg Regional Safeguarding Board (CTM RSB) regional exploitation steering group has been set up with the primary aim of translating national guidance and pathways into regional practice tools that will support practitioners to respond effectively to issues of exploitation. The strategic group will also focus on developing a national guidance framework, and also respond to national policy and guidance on exploitation to ensure that the Council is aligned to Wales-wide approaches.
- 4.3 Whilst this work is progressing nationally and regionally, Bridgend partners, led by the Authority, need to ensure it is supporting practitioners to respond to issues of exploitation. Below is a representation of the pathway developed to ensure exploitation in all its forms is explored fully.



## Exploitation Framework



- 4.4 To support implementation of the framework an Exploitation and Prevention Panel is being established to provide a coordinated, multi-agency response to children, young people and vulnerable adults who are currently at risk, or likely to be at risk of, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE), county lines activity, and gang affiliation, through the following aims to ensure:
- Effective multi-agency working to safeguard, protect and prevent from harm people who are effected by exploitation.
  - Safeguarding partners exercise effective oversight and scrutiny of arrangements for the safeguarding and protection of people at risk of exploitation.
  - The needs of people at risk of exploitation are met and appropriate services are accessed.
- .5 The Exploitation Prevention Panel will be a multi-agency panel at a level of sufficient seniority and expertise. The panel will fulfil its aims through delivering the following objectives:

- Providing a safeguarding forum where violence, vulnerabilities and exploitation is discussed and addressed from a multi-agency perspective.
- Co-ordinating the offering effective and timely intervention to families, young people, and vulnerable young adults at risk of exploitation.
- Offering disruption, intervention and protection for those children and families suffering the effects of exploitation.
- Developing multi-agency safety plans for people who are subject or at risk of gang affiliation, being missing from home, child sexual exploitation and/or criminal exploitation.
- Identifying, monitoring and sharing information and intelligence on people who are at risk of, or subject to, the various forms of exploitation
- Mapping through intelligence, data and evidence the extent of links for missing people and people who are victims of or at risk of child sexual exploitation and child criminal exploitation and gang affiliation of people in Bridgend.
- Ensuring that responses to people who are victims or at risk of exploitation are consistent and effective.
- Mapping the local intelligence in respect of exploitation in Bridgend's against local, regional and national data.
- Making recommendations in line with agreed referral pathways for additional resources and services
- Providing a reviewing mechanism and to gather intelligence to ensure appropriate services and agencies are aware of the risk to young people in BCBC.

4.6 To date, progress within Bridgend County Borough Council in respect of exploitation includes:

- Two senior social workers have been appointed to lead on exploitation within the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)/Information, Advice and Assistance Service (IAA) and the Safeguarding team.
- A dedicated business support role is currently being advertised to support the exploitation work and the Exploitation Prevention Panel.
- Key partner agencies have been nominated and have agreed to be members of the Exploitation Prevention Panel.
- The first meeting of the Bridgend Exploitation Prevention Panel is due to take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023, with monthly meetings of the Panel arranged thereafter.
- A draft Terms of Reference for the Exploitation Prevention Panel is being developed. The Terms of Reference will be reviewed at the first meeting of the Panel.
- A suite of screening tools and direct work tools have been created to support practitioners to identify and act on exploitation.
- A pathway for effective case management of exploitation has been agreed.
- Training around understanding and identifying exploitation and contextual safeguarding has been delivered and dates for multi-agency training are scheduled for later during 2023.

## **5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules**

5.1 There is no effect upon the policy framework and procedure rules.

## **6. Equality Act 2010 implications**

6.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales, the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

## **7. Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 implications**

7.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 provides the basis for driving a different kind of public service in Wales, with five ways of working to guide how the Authority should work to deliver wellbeing outcomes for people. The following is a summary to show how the five ways of working to achieve the well-being goals have been considered in this report:

- Long Term – Social Services is demand led and the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (SSWBA) focusses on sustainable prevention and well-being outcomes for the future. There is a requirement to meet the needs of people in the longer term and, because of changes in demographics, and increasing demand with increased complexity, the remodelling and transformation of services continues to be a priority. The work to support exploitation prevention is a long-term service priority for BCBC.
- Prevention – the work to set up an Exploitation Prevention Panel within Bridgend ensures the local commitment to ensure that the needs of children and families at risk of exploitation in Bridgend receive the support and services required and seeks to disrupt those who seek to exploit these children and families.
- Integration – The SSWBA requires local authorities to work with partners, particularly the NHS and the Police, to ensure care and support for people and support for carers is provided. This report and the work to develop support for exploitation refers to work with statutory partners. These statutory agencies together with a range of other partners who work with children and families have agreed to be members of the Exploitation Prevention Panel and work with the Authority in a multi-agency way.
- Collaboration – The collaborative approaches and multi-agency work described in the report, will be managed and monitored through the regional exploitation board, and monitored against the regional exploitation strategy.
- Involvement – the key stakeholders are the people who use social care. There is considerable engagement including surveys, stakeholder meetings, engagement events, feedback forms and the complaints process. The provision of accessible information and advice helps to ensure that the voice of adults, children and young people is heard.

## **8. Financial implications**

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## **9. Recommendation**

9.1 It is recommended that the Committee considers the report on the current progress of the work around exploitation and supports the proposal to establish a multi-agency Exploitation Prevention Panel in Bridgend.

**Claire Marchant**  
**CORPORATE DIRECTORS SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELLBEING**  
**April 2023**

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**Background documents:** None

None